

# GRAND JURY PROBING JAIL FIRE; ONE MORE VICTIM IDENTIFIED

Investigation of Holocaust at City Jail is Being Made;  
Dr. Calnan, Jailer and Other Witnesses Are Called;  
Coroner Turns Over All the Testimony to the  
Grand Jury; Funerals of the Victims.

(Continued From Page One.)

Judge Paul Thomas in corporation court Tuesday afternoon.

This leaves only five men unaccounted for, including the three unidentified men in the undertaking parlors who are supposed to be J. A. Villar, E. Bustillos and L. Salinas. The other two missing men are F. Smith and J. Harris.

**Patients Are Better.**

All six patients at Hotel Duen had a very good night according to attending physicians. The men at that place are: R. G. Gordon, A. C. Warron, Luis Gaudin, Daniel Yelas, Percy Woods and William Newman. Those at the county hospital are: J. Larson, A. P. Perry, A. Ronquillo, Fred Marmon, W. J. Leakey, T. D. James, E. McMichael, Albert Cruz, Leonardo Villalaz, Jack Monroe and E. McDowan. W. R. Costley is in the Providence hospital.

**Grand Jury Probe.**

The grand jury was given instructions by Judge Dan M. Jackson, in the 21st district court, Tuesday afternoon, to make a thorough investigation of the city jail holocaust.

"You owe it to this court and to the citizenship at large to go into this appalling disaster thoroughly, but in the spirit of fairness to every interest," he said. "If you find that there has been criminal negligence, you will return indictments, and if you find that there is no negligence it is your duty to so report."

A. A. Kline, one of the grand jurors, asked if the city has a right to get gasoline without a special permit. Judge Jackson replied that he did not know.

L. A. Shield, another juror, asked if the officers at the jail were following a law recently put into effect.

"I don't know," replied Judge Jackson. "I wish you would ask the officers."

**Conflicting Statements.**

Conflicting statements as to whether the prisoners were all searched for matches were made in the inquest proceedings instituted by Judge Jackson. Heaver, Tuesday afternoon, to determine the cause of the city jail disaster Monday afternoon. The investigation was conducted by Frank Pettibone, assistant county attorney, while Justice Heaver and several of the grand jurors, who were present, asked questions.

The grand jurors present were A. H. Anderson, C. H. Finley, Paul Bollen, H. E. Hines and A. G. Rindfleisch.

**Routine of Bathing.**

Frank Scott, the city jailer, who was assisting in the work of bathing the prisoners, stated that the bath was in the southeast corner of the old jail room, while under the stairs leading to the upper floor of cells was a tub of gasoline solution. The prisoners, he stated, would come out of the runway and cells, stop over to the corridor, and then they would bathe, after which they would take their clothing over to the gasoline and saturate them. They would then step back into the cells and wait for their clothing to dry. The prisoners did this one at a time.

**Search for Matches.**

"What precautions were taken as to matches?" Mr. Pettibone asked.

"We had the men searched and we asked and looked for them to give up their matches. In most cases we put our hands in the men's pockets to find matches."

"Did you search every one?"

"There might have been some who were not searched. But we cautioned them, repeatedly about striking matches."

The witness stated that the fire started in the north end of the room. He could not see the flames.

"I heard the report and saw the flames," he said. "I did not see a match struck. The flames instantly filled the entire room."

**Door Open to Cage.**

"The door to the lower cage was open, with the lock and key in the possession of Harry Morris, a trustee. The doors of all the cages were open and no doors had to be opened for those in the corridor to get out. The windows were all open and all of the doors were open. As far as ventilation was concerned, every precaution had been taken."

**Body in Flames.**

W. B. Atterbury stated that he saw a flash come into the front office of the building and immediately notified the fire department. He went into the alley then, he stated, and saw one man standing there with his body in flames. After some difficulty the flames were extinguished.

According to Carlos Alonzo, the hero of the holocaust, there was an insufficient supply of sheets and toilet in the emergency hospital. The girl stated that she was in the court room when the explosion occurred. She heard the cries of the prisoners, and hurried around into the alley. She found two men in the alley suffering from burns and gave them, and then she went into the emergency hospital, where several victims had gone, and began the work of oiling the scorched and seared bodies.

**No Sheets.**

"There were no sheets for treating when I got there," she said. "There were no sheets. I am certain, because we began calling for sheets and could not get them. They brought in oil from

somewhere near. There was a supply of bandages."

Robert J. Bagby, a trustee, stated that he was inside the cage at the time the men moved in and out of the cage properly. None of the men were locked in the cells, he said.

**No Search for Matches.**

"Was any search made for matches?" he was asked.

"I made no search."

The witness stated that a few seconds before the explosion one of the boys inside lit a match. "I told him to put it out and he did so," said the witness.

The explosion occurred when Cross lit a match and threw it on the floor. He was in the runway and had his clothes on. He was asked if he knew, because he had asked me for some dope."

**Empty Room.**

"How long did it take to empty the room of prisoners after the fire?" he was asked.

"Ten or 15 minutes."

Harry Morris, another trustee, stated that he was standing at the door of the lower cage, letting the prisoners in and out.

"All of a sudden there was an explosion, starting in the north end," he said. "I pulled the door open and ran out."

The witness stated that Scott and J. Calnan had both cautioned the men to be careful about matches. He said the door to the upper cage, where 10 or 12 men were confined was locked. He did not know how long it took to open the door.

**Dr. Calnan on Stand.**

Dr. G. H. Calnan, police surgeon, who was in charge of the work of bathing the prisoners, was on the stand for some time. He explained that they were using a solution of coal oil and vinegar for bathing the men and a solution of gasoline and a disinfectant for saturating the clothing. The men bathed the head in the kerosene and vinegar solution, he stated. He explained in some detail the handling of the men and declared that every precaution looking to ventilation had been taken. The doors of the lower cells were unlocked, also the door leading out of the cage.

**Six Locked in Cells.**

"Six men were locked in the upper cage," he stated.

"Who opened the upstairs door?" he was asked.

"Scott opened the door. A minute or two after the explosion occurred, the fire department arrived. As soon as they could put the fire out around the jailer's office and the jailer's room, Scott went up the stairs."

"How many of the six men in the upper cage are among the dead?"

"I have only seen two of those men and neither of them is badly burned."

**Warned About Matches.**

"What precautions were taken against matches?"

"We instructed them repeatedly not to strike matches. We had a search made of individual prisoners to see if any of them had matches."

"No," he replied.

"What was then done?"

"We issued instructions not to strike matches."

"How long did it take to get the men out?"

"Less than 10 minutes, I should say. That was a very exciting time and I could not tell exactly."

**Fire Chief Arrives.**

Chief John W. Wray, of the fire department, was the first to arrive, the witness said, and promptly handled the fire with his men. Nearly all the prisoners had been bathed, he said, when the explosion occurred. The six in the upper cage and 10 or 12 in the corridor where the bath was being taken had not been treated.

**Gasoline Tub Taken Out.**

Fire chief John W. Wray stated that he and his men first tried to gain entrance from the north side of the jail room, but finding the door locked, went around into the alley. The door into the building was closed, he said, which was a good thing, as it prevented a draught. The first work was to remove the burning tub of gasoline near the door of the jail room. This was carried out with hooks, but some of the gasoline was spilled in bringing the tub down the steps. A stream was then put onto the tub and the gasoline washed into the alley. In the meantime some of the men took the chemical equipment into the jail room.

**Stepped Over Dead Body.**

"In doing so they had to step over one dead body," said Chief Wray.

The witness stated that he knew of two windows in the jail being open. The nothing in the cells were in flames when they were in. Two or three prisoners passed them as they went in, he said.

In answer to a question from Justice Deaver, the witness said that there was not more than six inches of liquid in the tub. When Dr. Calnan was released, he stated that there was about two inches of gasoline and about six inches of the bathing solution.

**Steam Used to Kill Lice.**

At the county jail the clothing of

## MAYOR LEA SAYS FIRE WAS UNAVOIDABLE ACCIDENT

Mayor Tom Lea returned Wednesday morning from Albuquerque to be present at the investigation of the city jail fire and to take charge of the caring for the injured in the fire.

In a statement issued from the city hall Wednesday morning, the mayor said:

"I deeply deplore the occurrence of Monday afternoon and consider it an accident. I feel that Dr. Calnan took every precaution. Sometimes, with every care and precaution taken, the unexpected happens. I deeply deplore the statements made by irresponsible people which would almost make the public believe that the health department ordered these men burned."

"No sensible person would pay any attention to any such report or talk. I appreciate Mr. O'Connor's statement in yesterday's Herald, replying to the criticism of the police department. What was said by Mr. O'Connor I approve completely, as the action was taken by the health department under the supervision of Dr. Calnan, who as a physician and intelligence and good standing, would unquestionably take every precaution that he could."

The prisoners have been dipped in the gasoline solution in the jail yard, the prisoners given their baths in a separate room and the clothing saturated with gasoline used in dipping the woolen blankets of the prisoners.

**Dying Boy Tells Mother In Last Letter He Lived Good Life and Goodbye**

Pathetic sidelights on the jail tragedy of Monday afternoon continue to develop as the aftermath of the jail fire is being cleared up.

None of these were more pitiful than the letter which Alan R. Odum dictated to a Sister of Charity at Hotel Duen Monday night when he was lying from the burns he had received in the fire. As the sister leaned over his cot the 19-year-old boy whispered his last message to his mother, Mrs. Laura Odum, who lives at Berline, N. M., where the boy's body is to be sent for burial.

"Dear mother, please tell me when I hear from you that you are well. I have succeeded fairly well. I was traveling through here to Arizona with a man in an immigrant car, who promised to pay me when we arrived. I got off to get something to eat and the officers caught me for deserting from the army."

"They were cleaning with gasoline and it caught fire."

"Tell my brother and sister goodbye for me. Goodbye, my dear little mother. Your boy Alan."

Tears streaming from his gentle eyes, the good Sister of Charity penciled a little note on the bottom of the boy's last letter, which read:

"Dear Mrs. Odum: Enclosed is the message of your dear son, who he gave me after his arrival at the hospital. He died about 3 p. m., very peaceful and happy. He was dying and asked me to send you his dying message."

"With sincere sympathy."

**Music By Wireless Is Heard By Geographic Society Men At Banquet**

Washington, D. C., March 5.—Music by wireless is the latest. At the annual dinner of the National Geographic society Tuesday night, words and music of "The Star Spangled Banner" picked up by a wireless telephone receiver at the navy's great Arlington wireless plant, went through the air to a long distance telephone wire out of New York, were transmitted here and plainly heard by the diners.

Among the guests of honor were Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, and Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, who met face to face for the first time in 20 years, in spite of their mutual interests of almost a life time.

Gen. John J. Pershing talked with Gen. Hugh L. Scott over the long distance telephone Tuesday evening while the dinner of the National Geographic society was in session in Washington.

The long distance conversation, 2000 miles between the two cities, took place soon after 8 o'clock in the office of the Tri-State Telephone company on Texas street. Gen. Pershing talked with Gen. Scott about border conditions.

**CAPT. GEO. WALLACE GOES TO LETTERMAN HOSPITAL**

Washington, D. C., March 5.—The following army orders have been issued: Capt. George Wallace, 15th infantry, is transferred from the base hospital, Fort Bliss, to the Letterman hospital, San Francisco, and will proceed to the latter hospital for treatment.

First Lieut. H. E. Kirtley, medical reserve corps, is ordered to active duty, and will proceed to Fort Douglas, Utah, for temporary duty.

First Lieut. B. B. McLaw, medical reserve corps, is ordered to active duty, and will proceed to Fort Verde, Fla., for temporary duty.

Major R. J. Edgar, Jr., medical corps, is ordered to active duty, and will proceed to this city for duty.

First Lieut. William Chubb, corps of engineers, is relieved of duty at engineer school, and will report to chief of engineers for assignment.

Second Lieut. J. C. Walker, Jr., 15th infantry, is attached to the aviation section of signal corps as aviation observer, and will proceed to San Diego and report to commanding officer, signal corps aviation school for duty.

Second Lieut. B. F. Hyatt is assigned to the first cavalry.

Capt. J. W. Taylor, quartermaster corps, will report to commanding officer central department for temporary duty.

Lieut. Colonel J. M. Jenkins, inspector general, two months; First Lieut. A. W. Smith, Seventh cavalry, two months; First Lieut. George Grunert, cavalry, two months.

**PRIEST TO BE PUNISHED FOR ACCEPTING SILVER FEES**

(Continued From Page 1.)

tional money, and had been collecting fees for the church in silver instead of the paper money. The communication stated that he would be punished for the offense, but the character of the punishment was not stated.

**VILLA SHOTS PROMINENT MEXICAN CARRANCISTAS ASSESS**

Francisco Villa, while at San Francisco de Boya, on February 25, had been personally shot down Francisco Corral, a prominent ranchman and business man of that section, according to a message received at the Mexican consulate on Wednesday. On the same day Villa and his men are said to have committed many depredations and to have molested many women of the better class families.

**TRAINS OPERATING.**

There is no regular train schedule on either the Mexican National or the Northern Pacific out of Juarez and an average of two trains a week are running to and from Chihuahua and Casas Grandes.

## SITE FOR RIVAL PLANT 'TIED UP'

Neff Testifies in Cement Co. Hearing Treanor Had Site "Tied Up" Year Ago.

John Treanor, said to be a stockholder in the Riverside Cement company of California, when in El Paso last year tied up a piece of property, presumably as the site for a rival cement plant to the local plant, according to E. E. Neff, in the cross examination Wednesday morning in the injunction case now on trial before Judge J. H. Price, in the first district court, in which Lafta & Happer and other minority stockholders seek to restrain the Southwestern Portland Cement company from building a plant at Victorville, Cal.

**Is Party to Suit.**

Mr. Neff, who is one of the parties to the suit, was placed on the stand by the plaintiffs' attorneys. He told of having gone to California to investigate the proposition of building a plant at Victorville. From his investigations he was at first favorably impressed, but that after an investigation of market conditions he changed his mind.

On the cross examination he stated that he voted favorably on the proposition at the stockholders' meeting held in January, 1915. Afterwards, he opposed the proposition. He stated that he understood that when Mr. Treanor was in El Paso he tied up a piece of property with a Mr. Weber. He declared that he received no money from Mr. Treanor for the expenses of his trip of investigation to California except \$100.

## OFFICERS FIGHT TO STOP TYPHUS

Inspectors Busy Down the Valley and in City Trying to Prevent It.

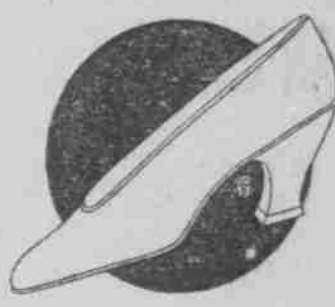
Two new cases of typhus have been discovered by the city and county health officers. The city case was discovered Wednesday morning by G. B. Calnan, police surgeon, in the 1100 block on South El Paso street, in the same locality where the first case developed several weeks ago. The case is a Mexican, and another Mexican in the same place is being watched. The inspectors working under Dr. G. N. Thomas, county physician, Tuesday afternoon found Manuela Armas, residing in the Sambrano addition, several miles down the county road, suffering from the disease. This case has been directly traced to her son, who had the fever two months ago while in Carranza's army. The Mexican woman is 60 years of age.

The city inspectors Wednesday morning were working in the district lying between the 600 block on Florence street and the 1100 block on South El Paso street, where the last two cases have developed. The county inspectors are working up and down the valley.

**CHANDLER AND GLENDALE BROOM FACTORIES TO MERGE**

Phoenix, Ariz., March 5.—A consolidation of the companies which own broom factories at Chandler and Glendale has been effected and the two plants will be combined in Phoenix as soon as a suitable site can be secured. The combined factory will have a capacity of 40 dozen brooms a day.

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FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

**Cold Sores and Fever Blisters**

are only outward manifestations of the inflammation of the mucous surface that lines the lungs, the stomach and all the digestive tract, but